

Select Story.

A Noble Atonement

[BY THE COUNTESS.]

CHAPTER XVI.—Continued.

"What is he?" she asked; and the colonel arched his brows in surprise that she should be so deeply interested in a country baronet, and she the queen of the season.

"He is no one very particular," he replied; "a country baronet, and not distinguished in any way that I know."

"Is he married?" asked the young countess, and even she herself was hardly aware of the keen interest in her voice.

"Again I should say not. I meet him at the 'Junior,' and at many other places, but I hear nothing of any Lady Rydal," then the colonel, thinking that he had given quite time enough to any man, began to talk about himself; the subject did not in the least interest the proud young beauty.

Afterward, when the crisis came, the colonel said that he had always foreseen it, that it was no fault of poor Rydal's, the countess had taken a fancy to him the first moment she saw him; and he related to his most intimate friends the story of how he had vainly tried to interest her in any other conversation, but could not, and when the sensation was at its height, Colonel Hunt became quite a hero, as having been the "first to notice anything wrong."

A silence fell between them; if the queen of the season did not care to interest herself in him personally he was not certainly going to interest her by talking about another man.

Suddenly she looked up at him with those magnificent dark eyes which no man ever resisted.

"Colonel," she said, "will you introduce me to your friend?"

"What friend?" he asked, affecting to ignore their conversation.

"The gentleman whom you called Sir Lionel," she replied, and the sweetness of her voice finished what the beauty of her eyes had begun.

"Certainly; any wish of yours is law to me," he replied.

To quote that gallant officer's own expression, he was the one who fired the cannon, for he introduced the two. He went up to Sir Lionel and touched his arm.

"I have brought you something more valuable than a royal invitation," he said.

Sir Lionel smiled.

"What is it?" he said. "I was just thinking of going. All the balls are alike; I shall go to no more."

"You will not find this ball like any other," said the colonel with a smile.

"In what does it differ?" asked Sir Lionel.

"The most beautiful woman in England has asked to be introduced to you," he answered.

Sir Lionel laughed.

"My dear colonel," he replied, "beautiful women are—"

"No treason," cried the colonel. "They are the first objects of a man's chivalrous devotion, to be sure! The queen of the season, the most beautiful woman, I repeat, in all England, has sent me to introduce you to her."

"I am highly flattered," laughed Sir Lionel. "Do you mean the Countess of Lynn? I hear every one talking about her. Some of them seem in a very bad way," and Sir Lionel gave his handsome head a careless toss as though he would say, "I should like to see a thing of that kind happen to me."

"It is a great honor," said the colonel gravely. "I know many men in this room who would give all they possess for the same grace. She had been asking many questions about you."

"I hope you gave a good character, colonel?" said Sir Lionel.

"If I had given you a bad one she would hardly have sent for you," replied the handsome guardsman. "I had to flatter an old dowager for half an hour to get my introduction. It was hardly fair to spend the whole time, as he did, in discussing you."

But Sir Lionel looked supremely indifferent, and the colonel felt alonging to shake the careless indifferent smile from that handsome face.

"You will think more highly of the favor in a short time," he said, dryly.

"I can stand fire," laughed, Sir Lionel, but his heart beat and his pulse quickened when he saw that magnificent southern face. A strange sensation came over him, he could not define it; it was not love, it was something he had never experienced before. She was looking at him with those wondrous eyes of hers.

"How fair and comely he is," she thought, while the colonel murmured a few words of introduction, and Sir Lionel murmured a few inaudible words. Then the colonel bowed and left them; he had the good sense to see that he was *de trop*.

For some moments the beautiful young queen of the season stood silent. She was for the first time in her life at a loss what to say.

"Do you like impulsive people?" she asked, suddenly. "I am impulsive. I acted on impulse when I asked the colonel to introduce you to me."

"It was a very charming impulse," he answered, "and a very fortunate one for me."

"But do you like impulsive people?" she asked again.

"I must first consider if I know any," he answered. "I am impulsive myself, and to say that I liked people of impulse would be to say that I liked myself. That is my favorite waltz, 'The Soldaten Liedchen,'" he said. "Will you dance it with me?"

And that was how the tragedy began; the angels in Heaven alone knew how it ended.

CHAPTER XVII.

HALF AN HOUR later, and they were still together, standing in the cool shade of the grand conservatory, where the sweet ripple of falling waters and the soft fragrance of the thousand flowers made music and beauty.

So great was the glamour that had fallen over her that she could not remember how her dance ended, or how they came there; she knew that he had drawn a chair near to the soft rippling water and as she took it the perfume of the flowers closed round her—she was in another world.

Suddenly she raised those dark, splendid eyes of hers to his, and he read in them something that he had never seen in any woman's eyes before, and the glance stirred a depth in his heart no one yet had ever reached; strong as he was he hesitated.

"How long," she asked, "had you been standing there at that door?"

He smiled a little at the question, it seemed to him a strange one; he did not know that her whole world and her whole life had changed since her eyes rested on his face, since she lifted up her eyes and loved him, with that love that was her doom.

"I had not been there very long," he answered, "when you sent for me."

"Do you believe in fate?" she asked him.

"Yes, in some kind of fates," he replied.

She went on, her dark eyes resting on his with an expression that said plainly enough she had found something for which she had long sought.

"I can remember receiving the invitation for this ball; and I said to myself, that I would go, for the Duchess of Kene gives the best balls in London. Before I wrote accepting it, another invitation came for the same evening. It was for a *soiree*, and I thought I should enjoy that best. The simple accident of my answering one letter before the other brought me here. I accepted quite unconsciously the wrong invitation. I declined the *soiree* and accepted the ball. I had intended to do just the other thing. I say that the finger of fate held my hand and pointed my pen."

He was silent, and the ripple of the fragrant water was the only sound they heard.

"When I was starting," she said, "my maid had persuaded me to wear a suit of pearls—against my wish. I wanted diamonds, but maids are often mistresses. My pearl necklace broke, and all the beautiful gems fell to the ground. My maid is one of the most superstitious of women, and she cried out, 'Oh, lady, that means bad luck; do not go to the ball.' I laughed, and said it means that I am to have my own way—bring the diamonds. I have some *gloire de Dijon* roses, and I told her to put one in my hair. Just as she fastened it there the roses fell. I laughed, for roses must die. My maid cried out again, 'It is bad luck, my lady; do not go to the ball.'"

(to be continued)

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(OFF GALLANTRY)

now located North of Hunter's Island (Ile aux Chasseurs), at a distance of about 50 yards from the Shore, will play from the 1st of March next, every time FOG AND SNOW will make it necessary.

The Sound will last for Six Seconds, with an interval of One Minute between each blast.

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1st. Uses the shortest needle of any lock-stitch machine.

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jy8

NOTICE!

I HEREBY CAUTION ALL PARTIES against infringing on or making my anchor, or any anchor with any feature of my invention attached to it. Most persons are under the impression that if they make the slightest alteration, they can obtain a patent; but such is not the case, and should not be allowed or granted, for such is contrary to the laws, rules and regulations of patents. The manufacturers in England said they were safe to make my anchor, and would not infringe on any other patent or get themselves into trouble by so doing.

T. S. CALPIN.

TESTIMONIALS.

In Favour of Calpin's Patent Anchor.

St. John's, Dec. 8, 1887.

DEAR SIR,—Having used one of your Patent Anchors on board my vessel on the Banks as a riding anchor, I must say it gave me entire satisfaction and merits all the praise I can give it, and I would advise all in the trade to adopt this anchor as it is to be rid of the entanglement of stock and top flukes, which would be a great relief. I have also used your Patent Anchor for trawl mooring and must say gave entire satisfaction.

CAPT. MORGAN HALLETT.
Schr. Daisy Maud, Burin.

St. John's, Dec. 9, 1887.

DEAR SIR,—Having had one of your Patent Anchors on the Grand Banks, and used it in Sydney and elsewhere, and its holding powers are surprising; and I believe in time it will be the only Anchor used by bankers and others.

CAPT. GEORGE BONNELL.
Schr. May Bell, Burin.

Burin, Nov. 10th, 1887.

SIR,—Having used your Patent Anchor this summer, on the Grand Banks, for a riding anchor, I held my craft firm and secure in all the gales. The non-hazardous action under the bow and on the rail, in a heavy swell, all of which proves it to be an invaluable invention when compared with the old mud-hook. Yours respectfully,

CAPT. JOSEPH GODDARD,
Schr. Happy-Go-Lucky.

T. S. CALPIN: Dear Sir,—My craft drove ashore last Fall at Black Island, with her 5-cwt anchor and 35 fathoms of chain out. I borrowed one of your 56 weight patents, put it out, and with a line to the windlass, this surprising little stockless anchor took my craft and contents off in safety. It is only when your anchor saves some craft and poor souls from getting in contact with an overwhelming reef or breaker, that your anchor will get its due appreciation. If large anchors are as good in proportion as the one I tested, everyone should use them. I am, dear sir, yours, &c.

P. M. JAMES,
Capt. sch. "Ariel," Brigus.

(Copy.)

THE PARSONAGE, FOGO, 23rd Aug. 1887.

DEAR SIR,—Please send me a small Calpin's Patent Anchor, 25 to 30 pounds; but not over 30 or under 20 pounds weight. I intend to do away with grapnels, the anchors works so well.

Yours, etc.,
dec9, 21w, 3m. (Signed), C. WOOD.

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99 PERCENT
PUREST, STRONGEST, BEST.

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Subscribed Capital.....	2,000,000	
Paid-up Capital.....	500,000	
Reserve.....	£5,374,566	
Premium Reserve.....	562,188	
Balance of profit and loss acc'd.....	67,895	
Accumulated Fund (Life Branch).....	£3,274,535	
Do. Fund (Annuity Branch).....	473,147	
REVENUE FOR THE YEAR 1887.	£3,742,983	
FROM THE LIFE DEPARTMENT.		
Net Life Premiums and Interest.....	£469,075	5
Annuity Premiums (including £108,992 2 4 by single payment) and interest.....	124,717	7 11
FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.	£593,792	13 4
Net Fire Premiums and Interest.....	£1,157,073	14 0
	£1,750,866	7 4

The Accumulated Funds of the Life Department are free from liability in respect of the Fire Department, and in like manner the Accumulated Funds of the Fire Department are free from liability in respect of the Life Department.

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Assets, January 1st, 1887.....	\$114,181,963
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A. S. RENDELL,
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LOCAL LEGISLATURE.

The House of Assembly.

MONDAY, March 12.

The house opened at half-past 3 o'clock.

MR. MORINE—I beg leave to present a petition from Jacob White, and others, of Shambler's Cove, Bonavista district, on the subject of roads. There are so many petitions coming from the Bay that it is impossible that they can all be acceded to; but the present is one which I feel sure will receive favorable consideration, as the petitioners have a strong claim.

MR. SHEA—I beg leave to present a petition from Henry Williams, and others, of Bay Bulls. The petitioners set forth that some four or five years ago they took advantage of the agricultural grant and cleared land five or six miles distant from the main line, and are now very much thrown out by not having a road to this land. I hope that when the road bill comes before the house, it will be possible to make the appropriation asked for by the petitioners. While on this subject I may say that my colleague and myself have done what we could to dissuade our constituents from presenting petitions, by pointing out to them that nothing could be gained by presenting a petition to this house in matters in which an application to their representatives would suffice. My district has not been very troublesome in the way of petitions, and I regret that its example in this particular is not more generally imitated, as a great deal of the time of the house is wasted in the presentation of petitions upon matters which virtually are under the control of the several representatives. I think it would be well worthy of the consideration of the house as to whether some rule could not be made with regard to petitions, which would do something to remedy the present practice and save the time of the house. Before sitting down I wish to say a word in reply to certain observations that were made by the honorable member for St. John's East, (Mr. Murphy,) in reference to the district of Ferryland. As I did not happen to be present at the time I would take this opportunity of referring to the misstatements which the hon. member made as to the pauperism of that district. I shall do him the justice to say that I do not think he took the trouble to ascertain the facts before he made that statement, because otherwise he must have known that Ferryland receives as little as any district in the way of poor relief, that outside the regular government grant that district receives little or nothing, and that so far as its money matters are concerned, it bears a favorable comparison with any district in the colony. I think these three facts are a sufficient answer to what that hon. member has stated, and had they been known to him he would doubtless not have made the statements he did. I shall refrain from making any comment as to the advisability of such remarks as those which fell from the hon. member, but I fail to see how they can advance anyone's interests. They are, certainly, in no way calculated to promote the interests of the hon. member's district and are not, I think, likely to advance even the interests of those who make such speeches.

HON. ATTORNEY GENERAL—I beg leave to present two petitions, one from the Rev. J. M. Noel, and others, inhabitants of Harbor Grace; and also one from the women of Harbor Grace, on the subject of Prohibition. The documents come not especially in the interest of this particular locality, as the petitioners have for some years past been enjoying the benefits of a Local Option law, but in the interest of the country generally. They presented similar petitions to the house last year. They hold the same views now as they did then, and they hope that a persistent effort will induce hon. members to favor the movement. The measure for prohibition was defeated last year, by that which could scarcely be called a majority. Such a defeat is regarded only as an encouragement for further effort which they consider will ultimately lead to the successful passage of the measure. They do not expect to enact their object all at once as both opposition and difficulties have to be first overcome, but being actuated by the best of motives they hope that hon. members may be induced to change the views expressed by them last year in opposition to the measure. Hon. members will, later on, have an opportunity of showing whether their views in this respect have changed or not. It is not necessary for me at present to enter into the arguments in favor of the object prayed, as a more suitable opportunity will be afforded when the bill comes before the house. I would therefore simply call attention to the number of respectable and influential names that are attached to the petition, which in itself is sufficient to entitle it to the best consideration of the house. I also beg leave to present a petition from Edward Parsons and others, of Southside of Harbor Grace and Bryant's Cove, also a petition from the women of the Southside of Harbor Grace and Bryant's Cove, on the subject of prohibition. The same remarks also apply to these petitions which I would ask to have laid on the table.

MR. PETERS—I beg leave to present a petition from the women of Fortune in the district of Burin, on the subject of prohibition. I understand that the matter will come up later on in the session when I shall be able to give the object prayed for my earnest support.

The Chairman of the Board of Works laid on the table to following documents:

Expenditure on public institutions.
Expenditure on roads, St. John's East and West, and main roads, 1887.
Expenditure on light houses, 1887.
Expenditure on public works, 1887.
Report of poor asylum, 1887.
Report of Quidividi hospital, 1887.
Report of Inspector Grace, on sanitary department, 1887.
Report of Inspector Murphy, on roads and bridges, St. John's East, 1887.
Report of Inspector Jackman, on roads and bridges, St. John's West, 1887.
Report of George S. McKay, on Great Northern mail route, 1887.
Report of William Godden, on Holyrood and Witless Bay line, 1887.

Ordered that the said documents lie on the table.

MR. MORRIS gave notice that he would, on to-morrow, move the house into committee of the whole to consider the following resolution:

Resolved.—That it is the opinion of this committee that it is desirable that provision should be made for compensation for the relatives of fishermen lost when engaged in the bank fishery; and, also, for the preservation of the lives of bank fishermen, and that a bill embodying these provisions should be enacted.

Resolved.—That the committee have power to report such a bill.

Also, that he will, on the 5th day of April, move the house into a committee of the whole, to consider the question of land tenure, and other cognate questions affecting the tenants' property, situate in St. John's and how far it is within the power of the legislature to assist in the removal of the causes which operate to the prejudice of the tenant—this notice to stand first on the order of the day.

Also, that he will, on the 12th day of April, move this house into a committee of the whole to consider the question as to how far it is within the power of the legislature to promote agriculture, and impart a stimulus to those engaged in it by increasing the present bounty given by the government for the clearing of land.

The hon. the Attorney General by command of His Excellency the Governor, laid on the table the following documents:

Report of the inspector of constabulary for 1887.

Report of governor of penitentiary for 1887.

Ordered that the said documents do lie upon the table.

The hon. the Attorney General by command of His Excellency the Governor, presented to the house the following documents.

Report of postmaster general and returns for 1887.

Report of Philip Hubert, Esq., J.P., on herring fishery protection service 1887.

Report of Henry Cramp on herring fishery protection 1887.

Report of H. J. Haddon on herring fishery protection 1887.

Report of Mr. John Marshall on herring fishery protection, 1887.

Report of Captain George Robinson, R.N., 1887, Examiner-in-Chief of masters and mates.

Report of Dr. White, medical officer, Labrador, 1887.

Report of Henry Knight, fishery warden at Cape John, 1887.

Report of Drs. Shea and Howley, health officers of St. John's, 1887.

Report of the cashier of the Newfoundland Savings Bank, 1887.

Annual report of the Harbor Grace Water Company, 1887.

General statement of the affairs of the Union Bank of Newfoundland, 1887.

Statement of Union Bank, 1887.

Statement of Commercial Bank, 1887.

Report of the Newfoundland Consolidated Mining Company, 1887.

Annual report of St. John's Protestant Industrial Society, 1887.

Report of Harbor Grace Banking Company, 1887.

Report of the Foundry Company, 1887.

Report of Masonic Hall Joint Stock Company, 1887.

Report of Nail Manufacturing Company, 1887.

Report of Newfoundland Furniture Factory, 1887.

Report of Cordage Company, 1887.

Report of Terra Nova Baking Company, 1887.

Statement of expenditure for relief of the poor, 1887.

Statement of expenditure on account of shipwrecked crews.

Tenders for steamers to be employed under Bait Protection Act.

Ordered that the said documents do lie upon the table.

The hon. Receiver General, by command of His Excellency the Governor, presented to the house the following document:

Total number of tonnage and crews of vessels entered at ports in Newfound land.

Ordered that the said document do lie on the table.

Mr. MORINE—I beg leave to present a petition from John Bartlett and others, of Amherst Cove, Bonavista Bay, on the subject of roads. Although the practice of presenting petitions takes up a good deal of time, as the hon. member for Ferryland has said, still it affords a good deal of satisfaction to our constituents. Even if the petitioner does not get the grant he seeks, he has the proud satisfaction of having his name appearing upon the records of the house, and if he does not have his petition acceded to, he knows that that is not the fault of the government. I am surprised at an hon. member in opposition wishing to see the practice of presenting petitions here discontinued, and I am sure that when the hon. member considers this and the fact that it gives an oppositionist many an opportunity of attacking the government when the views of petitioners have not been given effect to, he will change his opinion on the subject and regard the presentation of petitions as a blessed privilege.

Mr. HUTCHINGS—I beg leave to present a petition from George Smith, and others, of Cupids, praying for the sum of \$3000, for the building of a bridge and well at the riverhead of Cupids. A landing-place here is a necessity of very great importance, as persons are unable to cross, except by boat, and that owing to the absence of a suitable landing-place, is very often impossible at the present time. I also beg leave to present a petition from the Rev. William Weaver, and others, asking for a grant of \$200 to build a block to the present public wharf at Salmon Cove. The petitioners set forth that at low tide boats cannot now reach the wharf, which is, therefore, except at high tide, comparatively useless. I also beg leave to present a petition from Capt. Munden, and others, of Brigus, on the subject of a well. The petitioners complain of being unable to obtain any water in the neighborhood fit to drink, and ask for the sum of \$100 for the purpose of sinking a well. It is not necessary for me to point out the very great danger there is in drinking impure water, and how fruitful a source of disease it is; and I have very much pleasure in supporting this as well as the former petitions.

Mr. PETERS—I beg leave to present a petition from Rev. John Pye and others, of Flat Islands, in the district of Burin, on the subject of a ferry between the two islands. There are two islands not very far from each other, on one of which is the school and church. There is no way of communication between the two islands except by boat and this petition is accompanied by a letter which states that the ferry-service petitioned for will be performed by a man for forty-five dollars a year. I have much pleasure in supporting the prayer of the petition, and hope that it will be granted.

Mr. LEMESSURIER—I beg leave to support the prayer of the petition. The present rule with regard to ferry grants is only to give them where ferry service belongs to a main line, but so very necessary is it that some provision should be made to enable these people to send their children to school, and for themselves to attend church that a grant in this case would seem to be no departure from the intention of that rule. The inconvenience of having no ferry between these islands is made greater by the fact that the men are absent during the fishing season, and it devolves upon the women to row from one island to another. As the person suggested for the position of ferryman is now on the list of permanent poor, we would be relieving the poor grant from a charge, and at the same time doing a great benefit to the locality by giving effect to the prayer of this petition.

Mr. HUTCHINGS—I beg leave to present a petition from the Rev. Mr. Pratt, and others, in the district of Port de Grave, on the subject of Prohibition; and also a petition from the women of the district, upon the same subject. As this matter will shortly come before the house in a more practical form, I shall reserve any remarks I have to make upon it, and would merely now observe that the petitioners have but one end to conserve, and that is the general good. So far as they themselves are concerned, they are under Local Option, and I do not suppose there is a gallon of liquor consumed in that locality, and it is only from a desire to promote the general good of the community that they petition the house.

Mr. SCOTT presented a petition from Jacob Bishop and others, of Petty Harbor, on the subject of prohibition. Also a petition from the women at Petty Harbor, on the same subject. The two petitions which I have just presented deserve the serious consideration of this house, referring as they do to a subject which has engaged the attention of thoughtful philanthropic men, and which at present has taken deep root in the minds of thousands of the people of the colony. Petty Harbor whence these petitions come is itself a model village of historic interest, and famed of old as one of the finest fishing settlements in Newfoundland, possessing a population of hardy honest men and exemplary women, the descendants of some of the best early immigrants from England and Ireland. Although of late a gloom has been cast on these good people by the failure of the fisheries, bringing consequent want and

suffering, yet the noble characteristics of their race have not departed and while patiently and cheerfully undergoing privation, they hopefully look forward to a brighter day, when they shall witness a restoration of the prosperity which once made Petty Harbor and Petty Harbor Men famous in Newfoundland. It is gratifying to be able to say that these petitioners, are moved by a rather large-hearted desire to promote a cause, which they believe will benefit their fellowmen, than because of any serious results to themselves from the abuse of intoxicating liquors, and for this generosity of disposition they are to be commended. Whatever may be our views upon the question of prohibition, we must feel it our duty to endeavour if possible to co-operate with such as the petitioners in their laudable efforts to benefit their fellow men.

The Financial Secretary laid on the table the following documents:

Detailed statement of expenditure on account of public relief works for the year ending 31st March, 1887.

Daily Colonist.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1888.

"Across Nfld. with the Governor."

THE "MERCURY" AND HIS EXCELLENCY.

Our Prescott-street contemporary, in last evening's issue, waxes wrathly over what he terms our "grave error" in announcing that His Excellency had decided to send a delegation to Ottawa on the Confederation scheme, and then launches forth with a lecture on constitutional law, so racy and unique, and, withal, so gratuitously brutal and abusive, that, but for its absurdity, we might suppose the versatile editor of the organ of the Confederates was in dread of having to "shuffle off his mortal coil" without being afforded due time for preparation to repent of his political sins. We do not object to the Reverend Editor of the "Mercury" instructing us upon the History of Newfoundland or Fish Hatcheries, or general literature, but we must decline to accept his dictum as to the constitutional position of His Excellency. We did not say His Excellency had decided to despatch a delegation without consulting the Executive; the Executive are only the advisers of the Governor, and it is an "open secret" that the Executive are not in accord with His Excellency upon the question of the delegation, and are equally divided as to the time when it should go—Sir Robert Thorburn (Premier), Hon. Mr. Donnelly, and Hon. Mr. Goodridge, contending that there is no necessity for "indecent haste," that we should wait till later in the year; while Hon. Mr. Winter, Hon. Mr. Fenelon and Hon. Mr. Penny—the ultra-Confederate leaders—contend that the delegation should go at once, and return before the close of the legislature, place the terms before the Assembly, dissolve the Legislature, and hold an election as soon as possible, and have the fatal act of Confederation consummated on July 1st, next Dominion day. We do not say that His Excellency, as an individual, had decided to send a delegation without the consent of his ministers, but we do re-assert that His Excellency's conduct in deciding to send this deputation, at a time when the Legislature is sitting, and without its sanction and approval, is the most high-handed and unconstitutional act that has ever been attempted since the advent of Responsible Government; and this too, in face of the fact that seats in the cabinet are unfilled, that the six partly constituting it are divided in opinion, and that one of them, a strong Confederate, was placed in the Executive, with the distinct understanding that he was to get a constituency, and therefore his position is a merely tentative one, representing neither constituency, class, creed, nor party. We maintain that for a ministry, so constituted, to take the grave step of sending a delegation to negotiate terms to change the constitution is without precedent, and does violence to every principle of responsible government.

We wish we could concur with the "Mercury" that "His Excellency has been simply an on-looker, and entirely neutral." Unfortunately for this colony His Excellency has been more active in this matter than his position warranted. We are not to be "gulled" by professions of a desire to "act constitutionally." We are only too well aware of the facts connected with the "inside track" of this scheme, and His Excellency's connection therewith, and the means he adopted to prepare the public mind for the question before the arrival of the despatch from Lord Lansdowne. No governor would attempt to influence public opinion by the channels through which His Excellency has worked, if he had any desire "to act constitutionally." On the receipt of that despatch, knowing that the question had been vetoed by the people in 1869, that it had never subsequently been raised as an issue, either in the Legislature or at the Polls, it was the plain duty of His Excellency to transmit the despatch to the Legislature, with a request that they would consider the advisability of sending a delegation. The Legislature being in session at present—especially with a divided

ministry—it is still the duty of the Governor to ask the Legislature to consider the question of the delegation. We assert what is well known to many in the community—that if His Excellency's personal feelings and interests were not in favor of this delegation, this proper course would even now be adopted. Personally we have no quarrel with His Excellency, and naturally feel disinclined to criticise his conduct. But we have a public duty to perform; and if the "Mercury" did not undertake to champion his conduct, we would not have referred to him, more than was incidentally necessary. We respect the Representative of Her Gracious Majesty, as such; but when he attempts to force an obnoxious political issue on a reluctant people—and that people the descendants of English, Scotch and Irish settlers—men who know by instinct how to guard their liberties,—His Excellency Arthur Henry Blake, Esq., C.M.G., may find himself like Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, or Sir John Harvey, or even Governor Eyre, open to something even more distasteful than the criticism of an independent press.

The Confederation Case.

THE DEAD SEA FRUIT.

Reply of the "Colonist."

"If you want direct taxation, cannot you tax yourselves."—COLONIST, March 13.

(To the Editor of the Colonist.)

DEAR SIR,—The above, and words of similar import, have recently appeared in your columns, in reference to the effect of the proposed union of this colony and Canada. Their author, or authors, is either ignorant or malicious in thus impressing upon the public that "direct taxation" is levied by the Dominion parliament, or that it would necessarily follow Confederation, and I will charitably assume that ignorance is the cause of the statement, as I hear many men who should know better speak of "stamp duties," "property taxes," "taxes on live stock," and taxes on "window panes and babies," as the necessary result of Union with Canada. Permit me, Sir, to say in reply:—

(1.) That the Dominion Government does not levy a single cent of direct taxation in any part of Canada, and would not do so in this colony were it to enter the Union.

(2.) That no "stamp duties," "property taxes," "taxes on live stock," or "taxes on window panes and babies," are levied or collected by the Dominion Parliament.

(3.) That the entire revenue of the Dominion is raised by customs duties upon imports, and by excise duties upon liquors and tobacco manufactured in Canada, and that the Canadian tariff applied to our imports, minus the imports from Canada itself, upon which no duty would be paid, would tax the people much more lightly than they are taxed today by our own tariff.

(4.) That the Canadian tariff is so framed as to bear very lightly upon fishermen; tea, salt, nets, twines and fishing implements being entirely free of duty, while molasses pays little more than half the duty it does here.

(5.) That for every dutiable article entering into the construction of a vessel, a drawback equal to the duty is allowed by the Canadian tariff when the vessel is registered, which would give us free ships.

(6.) That the stores taken by a fishing vessel to sea can be taken from bond, and are therefore duty free.

(7.) That the duties per head collected in Canada are to-day \$1 less per head than in Newfoundland.

(8.) That, taking the terms of 1869 as a basis, and adding to them the changes which time has wrought, the subsidy which the Dominion Parliament would pay to the colony would be more than sufficient to provide us adequately, as at present, for the several public services which would remain under the control of the local legislature, sitting in St. John's. If we entered the Union, the local legislature would retain supreme control over (1) education, (2) roads, (3) poor, (4) courts, not including the judges' salaries, and other matters of minor importance. These now cost, in an ordinary year, about \$600,000, and I am prepared to prove that the revenue of the local legislature, received from the Dominion Government, would be not less than \$600,000, leaving an annual surplus of \$30,000, and assuring us against direct taxation of any kind.

Any man who says that direct taxation is levied by the Dominion Parliament, or that it would be the natural or necessary result of Confederation, is either grossly ignorant, or designedly misleading. I challenge criticism or contradiction, by any person, of any assertion made herein, and only delay to express the hope that any person accepting the challenge will take up my assertions in order, so that the public may clearly comprehend the issue. Yours truly,

CONFEDERATE.

REPLY:

The words which our correspondent "Confederate" uses as a text for his communication were published in one of the clever letters signed "Independence;" and the context of the letter, March 13th, shows that the writer did not intend to impress upon the public that direct taxation is levied by the Dominion Parliament. Hence the charge of "ignorance" or "maliciousness" for asking the question. "If you want direct taxation cannot you tax yourselves," is simply perille. Inasmuch as neither the editor of the Colonist, nor any of our correspondents (for whose opinions by the way we are not responsible), stated that "windows and babies" would be taxed, in the

event of Union with Canada, "Confederate" is merely setting up men of straw for the pleasure of knocking them down. As our space is too valuable, at present, for such pastime as that, he would do well in future to indulge in such nonsense in the Confederation organs.

It is true the Dominion government does not levy direct taxation at present; but that they will "not do so" in the future, no person except one gifted with the spirit of prophecy can foresee.

The opinion is not at all uncommon in Canada, that, if the public expenditures continue much longer, at the same rate as they have been increasing for some years past, the customs and impost duties will not be sufficient to meet the requirements for carrying on the ordinary affairs of government; and paying the \$10,000,000 a year, even now required to meet the interest on the public debt. It would seem that the framers of the British North American Act—the Constitution of Canada—fore-saw that such would be the case, and made provision for it in section 91, which reads as follows:—

POWERS OF THE PARLIAMENT:

"It shall be lawful for the Queen, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons, to make laws for the peace, order and good government of Canada in relation to all matters not coming within the classes of subject by this act, assigned exclusively to the legislatures of the Provinces, and for greater certainty, but not so as to restrict the generality of the foregoing terms of this section, it is hereby declared that (notwithstanding anything in this act), the exclusive legislative authority of the parliament of Canada extends to all matters coming within the classes of subjects next hereinafter enumerated, that is to say:—

"(1.) The Public Debt.

"(2.) The regulation of trade and commerce.

"(3.) The raising of money by any mode or system of taxation.

If no direct property tax has been imposed by the Dominion Government up to the present, it may be well to remark, in this connection, that the amount allowed by the general government to several of the provinces to carry on the public affairs, within their control, is not nearly sufficient without direct taxation which has to be imposed by cities, municipalities, etc. The following incidents afford conclusive proof of this, and also show the straits many people are in to pay direct taxation in the confederated provinces.

The Examiner, (March 13th), reports that at a meeting of the Charlottetown City Council, held on the 12th—"Councillor McCarron said, he had heard many complaints from poor people, relative to issuing poll tax executions. He thought they should not be issued till July, when the poor people would be in a better position to pay up."

The Royal Gazette published in the same town recently, contained notices of executions, against over two hundred property holders for non-payment of taxes on real estate.

Similar notices are published in Halifax N. S., where the assessment on real estate for schools, etc., is nearly \$100,000 a year.

Our correspondent says that the Canadian tariff, if applied here, would tax the people much more lightly than they are taxed today by our tariff. This is a point worthy of enquiry; but if the contention of "Confederate" be correct, it by no means proves that we are taxed per head anything like the amount paid in customs and import duties, to the general government, and poll, personal property and real estate taxes to the municipal or provincial governments. The statement of "Confederate" that no duty would be paid on imports from Canada into Newfoundland, is erroneous. We might be justified in using his own language—that this assertion of his was made through "ignorance or maliciousness," in view of the fact that Canada does not, and for years to come could not produce all the articles which we require. Canada in 1884, imported goods to the amount of \$116,397,043; and in 1885 to \$108,941,486; according to the *Canada and Hand Book* 1886, page 76. The proportion of dutiable goods imported from Great Britain from 1880 to 1885, averaged 78.92 per cent, whilst the free list goods averaged only 20.97 per cent. The dutiable goods from the United States averaged 68.46 per cent, whilst the free goods averaged 31.53. From other countries the averaged duties amounted to 82.30 per cent, and the free goods 17.70 per cent, for the same years. Ibid, page 79. Though the duties on many of the articles imported here from Canada might not be paid directly by the Newfoundland importer, yet inasmuch as duties would have to be paid for them at Montreal, or other business centres or ports of entry, he would be charged with the duties, and as a matter of course, the consumer would have to pay duties, costs, charges and double profits in the end. Every importer knows this to be correct, and it is really trying to one's patience to have to reply to such "stupendous fallacies" as this "Confederate" of ours employs.

(4.) We also take exception to the statement, that the Canadian tariff is framed to bear "very lightly upon fishermen"; What they save on the articles mentioned, is extorted from them on duties on common wearing apparel for themselves and families. Be this as it may be, however, it is no argument for surrendering our charter; because, as the Home Industries Society asserts, and we are fully in accord with them, our Newfoundland tariff can be so regulated as to bear even less lightly on our fishermen than our current Union with Canada, "Confederate" is merely setting up men of straw for the pleasure of knocking them down. As our space is too valuable, at present, for such pastime as that, he would do well in future to indulge in such nonsense in the Confederation organs.

It is true the Dominion government does not levy direct taxation at present; but that they will "not do so" in the future, no person except one gifted with the spirit of prophecy can foresee. The opinion is not at all uncommon in Canada, that, if the public expenditures continue much longer, at the same rate as they have been increasing for some years past, the customs and impost duties will not be sufficient to meet the requirements for carrying on the ordinary affairs of government; and paying the \$10,000,000 a year, even now required to meet the interest on the public debt. It would seem that the framers of the British North American Act—the Constitution of Canada—fore-saw that such would be the case, and made provision for it in section 91, which reads as follows:—

respondent contends, the Canadian tariff does on Canadian fishermen. Nor should we forget that the customs duties are not like the laws of the Medes and Persians. They can be changed year by year by resolution of the House of Commons; and the fishermen of Newfoundland forming an overwhelming majority of the electors of this colony, have it in their own hands to control the making of the tariff; whilst if this colony formed part of Canada, they would be a mere moiety of the whole electorate.

(5.) The above remarks will suffice for an answer to similar paragraph in the letter of "Confederate."

(6.) The privilege of a fishing vessel taking stores to sea, duty free from bond, can also be conferred by our own legislature. The effect of the Canadian tariff in Newfoundland, under Confederation would be to subject our fishermen, especially the bankers, to the competition of Nova Scotian owners of fishing craft, which, we are assured, would still further add to the difficulties they now encounter from the unfair competition exercised against them by the French and Norwegians.

(7.) Our correspondent says, the duties collected in Canada to-day are less by \$1.00 per head than in Newfoundland. Though we do not admit this, we ask, what would the duties in Canada be, per head, if only Customs duties were imposed to carry on all the functions of general, provincial and municipal affairs. The duties would be from \$17 to \$20 per head, as against our \$5.00 per head of the population.

(8.) "Confederate," says the Dominion Government would allow us \$600,000 to carry on our local affairs, which would give us a surplus of \$30,000 a year. Even so, that would not, by any means suffice for the increasing requirements of the country. \$30,000 a year would go but a short way towards opening up new roads, extending our school system, and making necessary municipal improvements.

To secure these to any considerable extent, direct taxation, under fixed terms from Canada, would inevitably follow. Even though the statement of our correspondent were correct, that we would have a surplus of \$30,000 a year, only simpletons, in our opinion, would accept that as a set off against the \$2,000,000 a year which Canada would draw from us, in a short period, to say nothing of the indirect loss of being shut off from importing goods from the great markets of the world.

We have had only a short time at our disposal to examine the boldly made fallacies of our correspondent. His letter has the merit of being brief; and is the cleverest presentation of the Confederate case we have seen; and now we feel confident that a discriminating public must see for themselves that the inducements which union with Canada offers are merely dead sea fruit, not at all such as prudent men would exchange, for the rights and privileges of a free state which they now enjoy.

EDITOR OF THE COLONIST.

LOCAL AND OTHER ITEMS.

The "House" has adjourned over Easter recess.

The position of the Harbor Grace steamers remains unchanged.

Father O'Brien's night school in the Old Factory has been closed for the season.

We are requested to say that to-morrow being Good-Friday, the "Indicator" will not be published till Saturday.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—"Importers," "Terra Novian," "Native," and others, will appear on Saturday.

A new banking agreement has been made by banker suppliers, which seems to meet the approval of most of the men.

The steamer Curlew left her pier at two p.m., today, and started on the Western Coastal route. She succeeded in getting round the south battery, but it is thought she will not get round Cape Spear this evening.

Admission to the College Hall, for Mr. Bond's lecture, this evening, will be from Harvey-street. Holders of reserved seat tickets will be admitted from Long's Hill.

In our telegraphic column today will be found the approximate (if not altogether accurate) number of seals taken to date in the neighborhood of Twillingate. The grand total amounts to fifteen thousand four hundred old and young.

A masquerade skating carnival will come off in the City Rink on Wednesday night next, (ice permitting) for the benefit of the rink employees. His Excellency the Governor and lady have promised to attend and His Excellency will give \$20.00 towards the benefit. Ladies and gentlemen who have enjoyed themselves so much at the rink this winter, should remember that they are indebted not a little to Mr. William Smithwick for the excellent condition in which he kept the ice. The dressing-room, and refreshment-room attendants as well as the janitor, also gave the utmost satisfaction for their uniform kindness and attention.

DEATHS.

BOYNE.—Yesterday morning, Mary Ann, relict of the late John Boyne, aged 75 years. Funeral on Saturday at 11 a.m., from her late residence, No. 94 New Gower-street, when friends and acquaintances are requested to attend, without further notice.

WEIR.—This afternoon, of bronchitis, Thomas, beloved child of William and Charlotte Weir; aged three years.

BIRTHS.

WILCOX.—At Brigus, March 22nd, the wife of Mr. Thomas Wilcox, of twin daughters.